

Application No.: 09/588,350

Docket No.: 20162-00557-US

REMARKS

The final rejection and subsequent correspondence has been reconsidered by applicant. Claims 1-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as met by Walker.

Although the Examiner has interpreted the user's account unit to be similar to a credit card account for purchasing items, the remarks below should make it clear that this is not the case.

THE INVENTION

The gist of the procedure according to the present invention as defined in claim 1 can be illustrated as shown in the attached Appendix Fig. A, wherein:

- (a) The user unit transmits an account address and a demand for issuance to an issuer unit;
- (b) The issuer unit transmits the demand for issuance to an account unit corresponding to the account address;
- (c) The issuer unit obtains a user identifier from the account unit; and
- (d) The issuer unit prepares electronic rights information inclusive of the user identifier, and transmits the electronic rights information (electronic tickets) thus issued to the user be kept in one of the account units corresponding to the user.

CASE 1

Whereas, in a general case of purchasing an item by using a credit card, the procedure can be illustrated as shown in the attached Appendix Fig. B, wherein:

- (a) a user sends the credit card number to a merchant;
- (b) the merchant sends the credit card number to the card issuer;
- (c) the card issuer checks validity of the credit card number and sends OK to the merchant; and
- (d) the merchant sends an item to the user.

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In this case, the item (e.g., a theater ticket) is kept by the user and there is not facility which keeps the user's item. However, in the present invention, electronic rights information (electronic ticket) is sent from the issuer to the account unit corresponding to the user. Thus, there is no similarity between the present invention and the Walker reselling system.

CASE 2

The conventional credit card issuance to a user may be illustrated as shown in the attached Appendix Fig. C, wherein:

- (a) a user sends the user's bank account and a "request" for issuance of a card to a card issuer;
- (b) the issuer makes an inquiry to the user's bank as to the credibility of the bank account;
- (c) if the account is credible, the bank send an OK to the issuer; and
- (d) the issuer sends a credit card to the user.

In this case, too, the credit card obtained by the user is kept by the user.

Thus, neither case 1 nor 2 of Figs. B and C has any similarity to the present invention in which the issued electronic ticket is sent to the account unit corresponding to the user and stored therein.

First of all, it should be clarified that in the present invention, the "electronic rights information" is intended to mean such a particular right as an electronic ticket which can be issued, sold, transferred, or consumed as can be understood from the description at page 1, lines 6-9. In the Walker patent, the central controller 200 acts as a host at an Internet web site and every user registered with the reselling service can log onto the central controller (col. 7, lines 47-52).

In the system for reselling of tickets according to the Walker patent, after the user transmits a request to accept a particular purchase offer, the user transmits the original

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ticket number and sent location to the central controller 200, which in turn transmits the original ticket number and the seat location to the venue.

If the ticket is valid, the venue controller creates a new record in a replacement ticket table and the replacement ticket number is transmitted to the central controller (col. 13, lines 47-55) and the central controller transmits the replacement ticket number of the user buying the ticket. The user buying the ticket may print the replacement ticket number, take it to the venue and use it to gain access to the desired event (col. 14, lines 13-19).

According to the present invention defined in claim 1, a user unit sends an issuer unit a demand for an issuance of an electronic ticket and an account address of an account unit corresponding to the user, the issuer unit accesses an account unit designated by the account address to obtain therefrom the user's ID, creates an electronic ticket including the user's ID and sends the electronic ticket to the account unit to be stored therein. It is apparent that the present invention is not taught or suggested in the Walker patent.

In view of the above, consideration and allowance are, therefore, respectfully solicited.

In the event the Examiner believes an interview might serve to advance the prosecution of this application in any way, the undersigned attorney is available at the telephone number noted below.


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The Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees, or credit any overpayment, associated with this communication, including any extension fees, to CBLH Deposit Account No. 22-0185.

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Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX

FIG. A
INVENTION

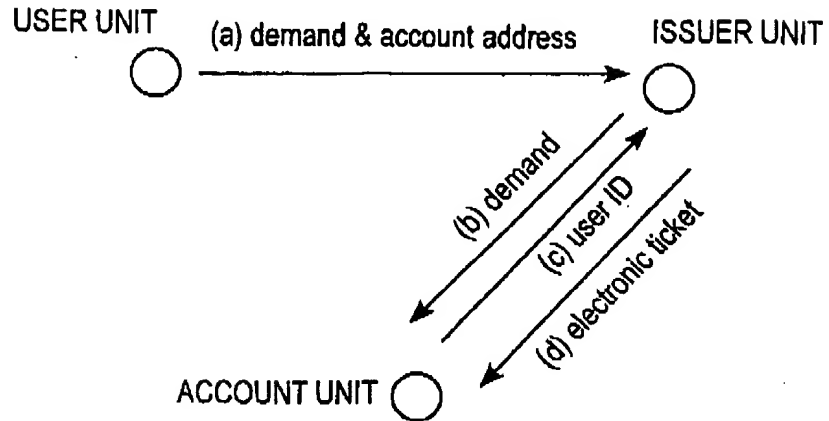


FIG. B
CASE 1

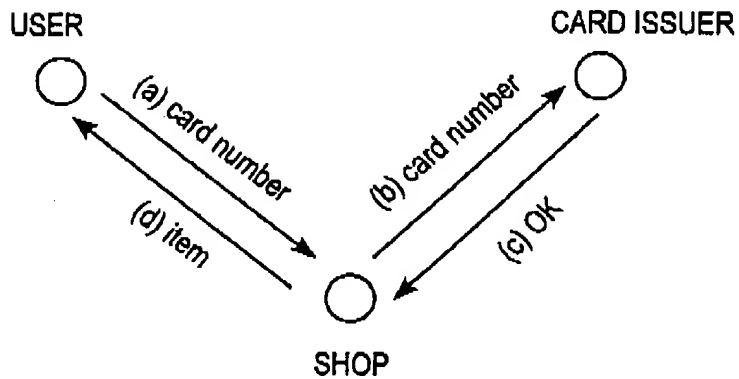


FIG. C
CASE 2

